

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 11, 15, 16, and 19 have been amended. Claims 6, 18 and 20 have been cancelled and have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 11 and 19, respectively. New claims 21-34 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-5, 7-17, 19, and 21-34 are pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 3-5, 9, 10, 15 and 16 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 3, 5, 9, 15 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form. Dependent claims 4 and 10 have not been amended as they depend from claims having allowable subject matter. New claims 21-34 depend on claims 3, 5, and 9 which all have allowable subject matter. Accordingly, pending claims 3-5, 9-10, 15-16 and 21-34 are allowable over the cited references.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103¹

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 11-14, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wetzler (U.S. Pat. No. 3,315,908) in view of Konrad et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3, 519,214). The Office Action asserts that the apparatus for winding a web as disclosed in Wetzler can be combined with the positioning belts of Konrad et al., and that this combination provides a winding apparatus as claimed. With respect to original claims 6-8, 18 and 20, the Office Action further asserts that it would have been an "obvious matter of design choice . . . to dimension the web of Wetzler in view of Konrad et al." (Office Action, p. 3). With respect to original claims 11-14 and 17, the Office Action asserts that the claimed method would inherently result from the use of such a combined apparatus.

The rejection of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully traversed. The applied references, alone or in combination, fail to provide each and

¹ The rejection of claims 6, 18 and 20 has been obviated by the cancellation of the claims. The cancellation of claims 6, 18, and 20 in the present application does not reflect on the patentability of the claims.

every element of the claims. In particular, neither Wetzler nor Konrad et al. teaches or suggests winding a web having a liquid add-on of at least 25%. As amended, independent claims 1, 11 and 19 each recite a web having a liquid add-on of at least 25%. The term "liquid add-on" is defined in terms of a wetting solution added to a web, at least at page 7, line 26 through page 8, line 19. Thus, amended claims 1, 11 and 19 are directed to an apparatus for winding a web or to a method for winding a web, where the web has a liquid add-on of a wetting solution of at least 25%.

In contrast, the winding apparatus and method as disclosed in Wetzler is useful with dry fabric toweling material [col. 2, lines 24-26], and the winding apparatus and the method of Konrad et al. as disclosed is useful with dry fabric bandage material. [col. 1, lines 31-36]. Neither of the cited references disclose the addition of a liquid or a wetting solution to a web prior to winding the web. Furthermore, Wetzler and Konrad et al. do not teach or suggest, nor has the Office Action asserted that Wetzler and Konrad et al. teach or suggest, winding a web having a liquid add-on of at least 25%. Rather, the Office Action has simply asserted that it would be obvious to use the claimed web with a winding apparatus.

Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion that it would be obvious to use a web having a liquid add-on of at least 25% in the winding apparatus provided by the combination of Wetzler and Konrad et al. The winding of a web having a liquid add-on of at least 25% is not a trivial matter, and the difficulties of winding webs having the claimed liquid add-on are discussed throughout Applicants' specification. The strength of such a wet web is lower than that of a comparable dry web, and the wet web material is more susceptible to tearing or breaking than dry web material. [p. 7, lines 17 - 23]. The conversion of a winding apparatus or winding method intended for dry web materials into an apparatus or method useful for wet web materials is not as simple as changing the dimensions of the web, as asserted by the Office Action.

Thus, amended claims 1-2, 7-8, 11-14, 17 and 19 are not obvious over Wetzler in view of Konrad et al. The applied references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element of the claims. Moreover, there is no suggestion or motivation to modify an apparatus or method based on the combination of the

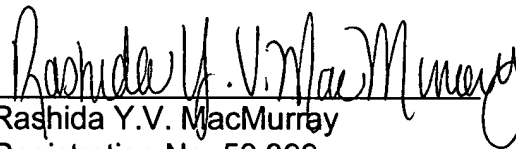
W THAT
NOTE THAT WINDING
APPLICANTS' SPECIFICATION
IS DISCLOSED IN APPARATUS
W WHICH ALLOW WET WEB
WINDING
AND NOT THE
APPLICANTS WITH A
WETWEB

references in order to wind a web having the claimed liquid add-on. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 7-8, 11-14, 17 and 19 are not obvious over Wetzler and Konrad et al.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, all of the grounds raised in the outstanding Office Action for rejecting the application are believed to be overcome or rendered moot based on the remarks and amendments above. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently presented claims are in form for allowance, and such action is requested in due course. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,


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